

Review: *The First Christians*, International Masters Publishers, 2007

Pages: 24

Homage to the Temple of Diana

Rather than being about the title, the DVD of this chapter in the Ancient Civilisations series is mainly focused on Ephesus and the Temple of Artemis. The Apostle Paul is simply used at the beginning as an introduction to this ancient city and religion.

The accompanying book, however, does have a little substance.

Saul (the “Thirteenth Apostle”) saw Jesus about AD38 and was beheaded AD in Rome under Nero, emperor from AD54-68.

Manicheanism appeared cAD280.

Castor and Polydeuces (Pollux) were adopted gods from the Greeks c484BC.

Other historical witnesses to Christianity include Justin Martyr (AD100-165), Iraneus (AD130-200), Hippolytus (AD185-254), Origen (AD185-254), Hegesippus (AD110-180), Eusebius (AD260-340), Epiphanius of Salamis (AD315-403), and Jerome (AD347-420).

Hellenists were Greek-speaking Jews.

Antioch in Turkey was found in the 4thC BC by Seleucus I Nicator. The disciples were first called Christians there cAD45.

Saul's first journey was cAD47. His second journey was cAD51 and third AD52 which included Ephesus.

Ephesus was founded in the 10thC BC by a mythical Prince Androkolos. At Paul's time it had 500,000 citizens.

Paul was imprisoned AD65 in Jerusalem, then in Caesarea, finally Rome. Eusebius says that Hegessipus said he was beheaded in Rome. St Clement I also agrees.

Bede wrote that in AD665 the Pope gave Paul's bones to King Oswy of Northumbria.

The Cerinthians claimed Jesus lost his divinity during crucifixion.

Manicheanism is named after the Persian philosopher Mani. They also worshipped a female goddess of wisdom called Sophia.

In Upper Egypt, 1945, twelve leather-bound tomes were found in a pottery urn. These include the 'Gospel of Thomas'. The Gnostics also believed Simonianism, that Simon Magus was God manifested in the flesh.

The Egyptian Coptic church was created AD42 by St Mark and split from Rome and the Eastern Orthodox churches as early as AD451 (the latter two separating AD1054).